

Coalition on Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure, and CHS, Inc.; Riki Ott, Cordova, Alaska; and James J. Corbett, University of Delaware Graduate College of Marine Studies, Newark.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Antonio Fratto, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs, David M. Spooner, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Im-

port Administration, Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation, who was introduced by Senator Gregg, Richard T. Crowder, of Virginia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Jeffrey Robert Brown, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

---

## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 25 public bills, H.R. 4524–4548; and 13 resolutions, H.J. Res. 74; H. Con. Res. 315–316; and H. Res. 598–601, 603–609 were introduced. **Pages H11652–54**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H11654–55**

**Reports Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 602, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2830) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules (H. Rept. 109–346); and

H. Res. 610, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, (H. Rept. 109–347). **Pages H11629 H11651, H11652**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foley to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H11507**

**Discharge Petitions:** Representative Marshall moved to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 568, providing for the consideration of H.R. 3936, to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels during energy emergencies (Discharge Petition No. 7); and

Representative Waxman moved to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of H. Res. 570, providing for the consideration of H.R. 3925, to provide that a Federal public safety position may not be held by any political appointee who does not meet certain minimum requirements (Discharge Petition No. 8).

**USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005—Conference Report:** The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 3199, to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, after agreeing to order the previous question,

by a ye-and-nay vote of 251 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 627. **Pages H11523–44**

Rejected the Conyers motion to recommit the conference report on the bill to the Committee of Conference with instructions to recede from disagreement with the Senate amendment, by a recorded vote of 202 yeas to 224 noes, Roll No. 626. **Pages H11542–43**

H. Res. 595, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question. **Pages H11515–23**

**Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006—Conference Report:** The House agreed to the conference report on H.R. 3010, to make appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, by a ye-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 628. **Pages H11544–52**

H. Res. 596, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question. **Pages H11512–15**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**CFTC Reauthorization Act of 2005:** H.R. 4473, to reauthorize and amend the Commodity Exchange Act to promote legal certainty, enhance competition, and reduce systemic risk in markets for futures and over-the-counter derivatives; **Pages H11553–61**

**Commending the outstanding efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina by members and employees of the Coast Guard, to provide temporary relief to certain persons affected by such hurricane with respect to certain laws administered by the Coast Guard:** H.R. 4508, to commend the outstanding efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina by members

and employees of the Coast Guard, to provide temporary relief to certain persons affected by such hurricane with respect to certain laws administered by the Coast Guard; **Pages H11567–69**

**Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005:** H.R. 972, amended, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 426 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 632; **Pages H11570–79, H11585–86**

**Reverse Mortgages to Help America's Seniors Act:** H.R. 2892, to amend section 255 of the National Housing Act to remove the limitation on the number of reverse mortgages that may be insured under the FHA mortgage insurance program for such mortgages; **Pages H11586–88**

**2005 District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act:** H.R. 3508, amended, to authorize improvements in the operation of the government of the District of Columbia; **Pages H11588–96**

**Congratulating Tony Stewart on winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship:** H. Res. 587, to congratulate Tony Stewart on winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship; **Pages H11602–05**

**Recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy:** H.J. Res. 38, to recognize Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy; **Pages H11605–06**

**Reauthorizing the Congressional Award Act:** S. 335, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H11606–07**

**Providing certain authorities for the Department of State:** H.R. 4436, amended, to provide certain authorities for the Department of State; **Pages H11607–09**

**Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua toward an immediate and full restoration of functioning democracy in that country:** H. Con. Res. 252, amended, to express the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political and social forces in the Republic of Nicaragua toward an immediate and full restoration of functioning democracy in that country; **Pages H11609–12**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read “Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should support democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in the Republic of Nicaragua and work cooperatively with regional and international organizations to bolster Nicaraguan efforts to establish the requisite conditions for free, fair, transparent, and inclusive presidential and legislative elections in 2006.”.

**Remembering and commemorating the lives and work of Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Cleveland Lay Mission Team Member Jean Donovan, who were executed by members of the armed forces of El Salvador on December 2, 1980:** H.R. 458, amended, to remember and commemorate the lives and work of Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Cleveland Lay Mission Team Member Jean Donovan, who were executed by members of the armed forces of El Salvador on December 2, 1980; **Pages H11612–18**

**Recommending the integration of the Republic of Croatia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization:** H. Res. 529, amended, to recommend the integration of the Republic of Croatia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; **Pages H11618–21**

**Honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979:** H. Con. Res. 238, amended, to honor the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979 **Pages H11629–30**

**Suspensions—Failed:** The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

**Establishing the Task Force on Ocean Policy:** H. Res. 599, to establish the Task Force on Ocean Policy, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 103 yeas to 327 nays, Roll No. 631. **Pages H11561–67, H11585**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House completed debate on the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further consideration will continue at a later date on the measures:

**Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected:** H. Res. 579, amended, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected; **Pages H11596–H11600**

**Urging the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month:** H. Con. Res. 315, to urge the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month; **Pages H11600–02**

**Urging the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw or modify proposed legislation that would have the effect of severely restricting the establishment, operations, and activities of domestic and foreign nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation:** H. Con. Res. 312, amended, to urge the Government of the Russian Federation to withdraw or modify proposed legislation that would have the effect of severely restricting the establishment, operations, and activities of domestic and foreign nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation; **Pages H11621–24**

**Calling on the international community to condemn the Laogai, the system of forced labor prison camps in the People's Republic of China, as a tool**

*for suppression maintained by the Chinese Government:* H. Con. Res. 294, amended, to call on the international community to condemn the Laogai, the system of forced labor prison camps in the People's Republic of China, as a tool for suppression maintained by the Chinese Government; **Pages H11624–29**

*Condemning the Government of Zimbabwe's "Operation Murambatsvina" under which homes, businesses, religious structures, and other buildings and facilities were demolished in an effort characterized by the Government of Zimbabwe as an operation to "restore order" to the country:* H. Res. 409, amended, condemning the Government of Zimbabwe's "Operation Murambatsvina" under which homes, businesses, religious structures, and other buildings and facilities were demolished in an effort characterized by the Government of Zimbabwe as an operation to "restore order" to the country;

**Pages H11630–37**

*Providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority:* H.R. 575, amended, providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority;

**Pages H11637–42**

*Recognizing the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary in the formation of a new and democratic Iraq:* H. Res. 534, to recognize the importance and credibility of an independent Iraqi judiciary in the formation of a new and democratic Iraq; and

**Pages H11642–44**

*Condemning actions by the Government of Syria that have hindered the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), expressing support for extending the UNIIC's investigative mandate, and stating concern about similar assassination attempts apparently aimed at destabilizing Lebanon's security and undermining Lebanon's sovereignty:* H. Res. 598, to condemn actions by the Government of Syria that have hindered the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), expressing support for extending the UNIIC's investigative mandate, and stating concern about similar assassination attempts apparently aimed at destabilizing Lebanon's security and undermining Lebanon's sovereignty.

**Pages H11644–49**

*Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006—Motion to go to Conference:* The House disagreed to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2863, to make appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and agreed to a conference.

**Page H11580**

Agreed to the Murtha motion to instruct conferees on the bill by a ye and nay vote of 308 yeas to 122

nays, Roll No. 630, after ordering the previous question.

**Pages H11580–83, H11584–85**

Agreed to close portions of the conference when classified national security material is being discussed by a ye and nay vote of 415 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 629.

**Pages H11583–84**

Later, the Chair appointed as conferees: Messrs. Young of Florida, Hobson, Bonilla, Frelinghuysen, Tiahrt, Wicker, Kingston, Ms. Granger, Messrs. Walsh, Aderholt, Lewis of California, Murtha, Dicks, Sabo, Visclosky, Moran of Virginia, Ms. Kaptur, Messrs. Edwards, and Obey.

**Page H11586**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H11606.

**Senate Referrals:** S. 1231 was referred to the Committees on Resources and Energy and Commerce and S. 449 was referred to the Committee on Resources.

**Page H11651**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Six ye and nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11542–43, H11543, H11552, H11583–84, H11584–85, H11585, and H11585–86. There were no quorum calls.

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:02 a.m. and reconvened at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 15th.

**Pages H11649, H111651**

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:16 a.m. on Thursday, December 15th

## Committee Meetings

### USDA POSTED COUNTY PRICES

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review Technical Procedures of USDA's Establishment of Posted County Prices. Testimony was heard from Floyd Gaibler, Deputy Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA; and public witnesses.

### POST-HURRICANES HOUSING OPTIONS

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, continued hearings entitled "Housing Options in the Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: Brian D. Montgomery, Assistant Secretary, Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner; and Orlando J. Cabrera, Assistant Secretary, Public and Indian Housing.

### SECURE HANDLING OF AMMONIUM NITRATE ACT OF 2005

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 3197, Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Prior to this action, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 3197. Testimony was heard from